

A Sense of Home: Forming our CLC

CLC promotes a way of life, of following Christ. One that helps each of us integrates the values of community, spirituality, and prayer into our daily living. We can see this summarize in the brochure. This is what a central document, the CLC General Principles, envisions in #11: "As a primary means of formation and continuing growth, members come together on a regular basis in a stable local community, to assure a deep sharing by members of their faith and human life, a true community atmosphere and a strong commitment to mission and service."

Today, we will use "home" as a metaphor to explore this kind of community we're trying to build. It can be said that there are four dimensions to "home." Home is a web of relationship where one:

1. is accepted and loved without having to deserve, gain, or needing to impress
2. is grounded or centered in a sense of well-being
3. can be transparent or vulnerable
4. feels safe enough to take the risks or be challenged to grow



Home is more than a house, more than a physical place. It is a web of relationships whereby we are loved and accepted as we are, without condition, without having to deserve, gain, or earn love. From these relationships, we can be our truest selves, live with meaning and purpose. These relationships of genuine love, which form the bedrock of who we are, takes us "home." This happens with people we can freely be ourselves, with whom we have no need to put on our best face, hide our fears, especially of being judged. People who know us through and through and enjoy us. In these people's presence, we become our best selves. We feel safe, open, and willing to take the risks to grow. We feel secured enough to accept loving challenges.

The invitation to "come home" arises from both a longing within and a summons from without. It is an inner, almost restless "longing for more," urging us to come home. We are also beckoned by God/Jesus who wants to come closer, who invites us to deeper friendship, to enjoy our company, to a deeper "being with" us.

We are invited to be in touch with a deep place within "where we are most who we are. In that place we know ourselves as true, good, and beautiful. That truth and goodness and beauty were affirmed by those who have loved us. 'You are my precious little boy/girl'. 'I am proud of you.' 'You are so gifted ... caring ...' To come home is to 'enter into a stillness within ... to that deep place within us where our God dwells ...'" (Marie Schawn, *Come Home*).

1. Which relationships (with individuals or groups) help me to come home? How am I concretely cultivating this sense of home?
2. Do I consider cultivating this sense of home with (this group/CLC)? In what concrete ways am I invited?

Moving Forward (for the coming weeks)

- Psalm 42 – "As the deer longs for streams of water, so my soul longs for you, O God."
- John 10:27-28 – My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.
- Matthew 1:20 – "An angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.'"

Notice in the coming weeks when you experience a coming home, being centered ... notice when you are being pulled off-centered, away from home ... Don't try to analyze or figure it out, just observe to befriend.